employees who are banned from their occupation; and

(e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Mumbai blasts

2903. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistan has made it categorically clear to India in the perspective of 11/7 Mumbai blast that it would neither handover nor allow any interrogation of the leaders of banned terrorist outfits like Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammed;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Pakistan's Minister of External Affairs has also mentioned that his country would not provide any details of conversation that took place with Md. Azahar and Md. Syed; and

(c) if so, Government's view in this regard and to what extent this adamant approach of Pakistan would create impediments in confidence building measures between India and Pakistan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) According to Pakistani media reports, on 23rd July, 2006, Pakistan Interior Minister Aftab Ahmad Khan Sherpao said that none of the wanted men was present in Pakistan. On the same day, Pakistan Foreign Office Spokesperson said that as far as Salahuddin and some other Kashmiri leaders are concerned, they are people associated with the Kashmiri struggle against Indian occupation and "the question of handing them over to India does not arise." Pakistan Foreign Minister, Khurshid Kasuri, during an interview on an Indian television channel on 23rd July, 2006, also declined to hand over any of the wanted terrorists or any interrogation record to India. He said that trust needs to be build first "and a stage will come when we will be able to conduct joint investigations of what happens in Karachi or in Bombay".

(c) India has conveyed to Pakistan that the dialogue process between the two countries can be sustained and carried forward only if Pakistan

takes effective action to dismantle the infrastructure of terrorism, including training camps, launch pads and communication links between terrorist groups on the Indian side and their handlers on the Pakistan side.

Evacuation of people from Lebanon

†2904. SHRIMATIPREMACARIAPPA:
MS. SUSHILATIRIYA:
SHRIMOTILALVORA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a battalion of 4-Sikh Regiment was sent to Southern Lebanon under a peace mission of the United Nations Organisation six months ago;

(b) whether Lance Naik Rajinder Singh belonging to the aforesaid battalion had got seriously injured in the bloody war between Israeli troops and Hizbullah;

(c) the number of soldiers of this battalion who have been safely evacuated; and

(d) the number of Indians in Lebanon at present and the arrangement made to evacuate them to safe places?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIE. AHAMMED): (a) India has contributed an Infantry Battalion and staff officers to the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) since 1998. Currently, 672 military personnel from the 4 Sikh Regiment are deployed in Lebanon in UNIFIL.

(b) Lance Naik Rajinder Singh from the above Regiment was moderately injured on July 16,2006.

(c) No Indian soldiers serving in the UNIFIL have been evacuated.

(d) At the outbreak of the recent hostilities in Lebanon, approximately 12,000 Indian nationals were resident in Lebanon. Government launched well-coordinated efforts to ensure the evacuation of those of our nationals desirous of leaving Lebanon. 1782 Indian nationals have been evacuated from Lebanon to India so far.

Approximately 10,000 Indians who opted to stay on in Lebanon remain there and there are no plans as of now to evacuate them.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.